



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Kentucky Division of Abandoned Mine Lands Announces Phase III of Perry County Waterline Project** *Residents of the communities from Viper to Cornettsville will soon receive access to a potable water supply*

**Frankfort, Ky.** (Feb. 7, 2012) – Access to potable water will soon be available to 165 households in Perry County.

The Department for Natural Resources' (DNR) Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) announced today the award of contract and the start of construction for phase three of the South Perry AML water supply project in Perry County.

"Providing the citizens of the Commonwealth with access to a clean, safe water supply is a basic necessity many Kentuckians residing in our coalfield counties continue to lack. I am pleased the department is extending yet another waterline to reach the needs of our rural communities," said DNR Commissioner Steve Hohmann.

AML has found that agency eligible, pre-1982 mining has impacted much of the groundwater in the communities from Viper to Cornettsville along KY Hwy. Route 7, as well as Owens Branch Road off of Main Leatherwood Creek, Bee Hive Branch including the Left and Right Forks, and along KY Hwy. 463 of Leatherwood Creek making these areas eligible for AML waterline assistance.

The project, with a memorandum of agreement between the city of Hazard and AML, totals \$1.5 million with the remainder of funding provided by Perry County's coal severance funds. The project will be operated by the city of

Hazard. G & W Construction Co. Inc. was awarded the contract with a low bid amount of \$1,346,882.08. H. A. Spalding Engineers Inc. of Hazard will provide engineering services. The entire project involves the installation of approximately 9.81 miles of water main in various sizes from 12" to ¾", and the installation of water meters at 165 residences.

AML is authorized under Kentucky law to abate hazards to public health, safety, and the environment from abandoned mine lands. To date, AML has expended more than \$94.3 million for waterline improvements and has provided more than 13,400 households with potable water supply in 24 coalfield counties in eastern, southern and western Kentucky.

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